



HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

JIM M. COPPINGER

May 26, 2015

Superintendent Rick Smith
Hamilton County Board of Education
3074 Hickory Valley Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Dear Superintendent Smith:

I want to thank you for your thorough presentation to the County Commission on Wednesday of the Department of Education's budget request for FY 2016, as well as your efforts over the last few weeks to inform the County taxpayers.

I have spent countless hours reviewing your budget proposal and your request for additional local funding.

I have and always will be a strong supporter of the need for quality public education in Hamilton County. However, I believe it is in the overall best interest of the County taxpayers to retain the County property tax rate at its current level.

Please let this letter serve as formal notice that I will not be recommending an increase in the County's 2015 property tax levy rate. Accordingly, I am requesting you to prepare the FY 2016 budget for the Department of Education in accordance with this directive and forward it to me as soon as possible.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of the citizens of Hamilton County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim M. Coppinger".

Jim M. Coppinger
County Mayor